

# Anchorage Amateur Radio Club

## Happy New Year, el Nino & Sun Spot Cycle

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#### Officers

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Mel Saunders AL7PB

Harvey Rookus NL7DK

#### One Year Board Members

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Fred Erickson KL7VC

John Orella KL7LL

Corny Eastman KL0FK

Jack Crowell W6BUS

Dave Filley WL7CDJ

#### WEB PAGES:

AARC <http://nl7nc.akconnect.com/aarc.htm>

SCRC <http://servcom.com/worcester/scrc.htm>

EARS <http://ww2.customcpu.com/kl7air/default.htm>

KL7J <http://www.alaska.net/~buchholz>

*please let us know if there are other club pages or good starting points that should appear here*

#### **KL7G CODE PRACTICE SCHEDULE**

Schedule: 7:00am, 10:00am, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm  
AK time, every day

Frequencies: 3575 KHz and 145.35 MHz

Sending Speeds: 22 wpm, 15 wpm, 7 wpm

#### **Nets in Alaska:**

The following nets are active in South-central Alaska:

Alaska Sniper's Net 3.920 MHz 0300 UTC daily

Alaska Bush Net 7.087 MHz 0500 UTC daily

Alaska Motley Net 3.933 MHz 0600 UTC daily

Alaska Pacific Traffic Net 14.292 MHz 1900 UTC daily

QCWA net 146.97/.37 repeater Sundays 9:00 PM local

No Name Net 146.85/.25 repeater Sundays 9:00 PM local

Son of Sideband Net 144.20 USB Mondays 9:00 PM local

Big City Sideband Net 144.20 USB Tuesdays 8:30 PM local

ARES net 147.30/.90 Mhz Thursdays at 8:00 PM local

PARKA net 147.30/.90 Mhz Thursdays at 9:00 PM local

#### **Anchorage Area Repeaters**

KL7AA systems at Flattop Mt., 2,200 ft

146.34/94 Mhz, 80 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 Hz PL

223.34/224.94, 25 watts, no patch, no PL

444.70/449.70, 25 watts, autopatch, 100/141.3 PL

KL7ION at Mt. Gordon Lyon 4,700 ft

147.30/90 Mhz - 80 watts, no patch, no PL

KL7AA, Mt. Alyeska, 2,400 ft.

146.46/76 Mhz, 25 watts, no patch, no PL

KL7CC, Anchorage Hillside, SCRC club

146.97/.37 Mhz, autopatch, 103.5 Hz PL

KL7DJE at Grubstake Peak, 4,500 ft.

147.09/.69 Mhz, 25 watts, no patch, 100 Hz PL

KL7JFU, Palmer, MARA club

146.85/.25, autopatch, no PL

coming soon KL7AIR Elmendorf

#### **News Letter Submissions, Information or corrections:**

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## **Telecommunications Bills**

### **for the First Session of the 105th Congress**

\* Here is a summary of significant telecommunications legislation introduced during the first half of the 105th Congress. Here is a list of bills with only incidental references to telecommunications issues. If you would like a current status report of any of these bills, you can find it at <http://thomas.loc.gov> on the World Wide Web.

#### **House of Representatives**

**HR 84** To require broadcasters to provide free time for political advertising.

**HR 121** To repeal statutory authority for Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

**HR 147** To direct FCC to establish ethnic and minority affairs section.

**HR 280** To require FCC to implement recommendations on universal service support (advanced telecommunications) for schools and libraries.

**HR 369** To require FCC to prescribe rules to protect public safety by preventing broadcasts that create hazards for motorists.

**HR 486** To promote greater telecommunications and information services to Native Americans.

**HR 555** Variation on **HR 486**.

**HR 695** To relax export controls on encryption technology and prohibit mandatory key escrow.

**HR 910** To require violent TV programs be broadcast after-hours when children comprise substantial portion of audience, unless rated on violent content so as to be blockable by electronic means.

**HR 1013** To put Amateur Radio VEs and OOs under the protection of the Federal Tort Claims Act.

**HR 1017** To require FCC to establish toll free telephone number and computer site for collection of complaints.

**HR 1054** To establish national policy against state and local interference with interstate commerce on the Internet.

**HR 1324** To clarify authority of FCC to authorize foreign investment in US broadcast and common carrier licenses.

**HR 1539** To require the FCC to preserve low-power television stations that provide community broadcasting.

**HR 1626** To require the licensing of unused channels in the 152 - 159 and 470 - 512 MHz bands for public safety uses.

**HR 1964** To increase scope of prohibitions against cellular and other "scanner eavesdropping." See HR 2369 for another version of this bill (see, also, September 1997 "DC Current").

**HR 2369** Enlarges prohibitions against cellular eavesdropping to include listening to GMRS frequencies, and proposes stiffer penalties for listening to or disclosing the contents of certain transmissions (see October and November 1997 "DC Currents").

**HR 2383** To authorize enforcement by state and local governments of certain FCC regulations regarding use of citizen band radio equipment.

**HR 2400** To provide funding for highways and other surface transportation, and includes provisions for designations

spectrum for "Intelligent Transportation System," most likely in the 5 Ghz range.

**H RES 29** To express intentions of House of Representatives concerning the universal service provisions of Telecommunications Act of 1996 as they relate to telecommunications services to Native Americans.

#### **Senate**

**S 59** To terminate Extremely Low Frequency Communications System of Navy.

**S 213** To repeal amendments on obscene and harassing use of telecommunications facilities made by Communications Decency Act of 1996 and to restore provisions in effect before the enactment of the act.

**S 255** To provide for the reallocation and auction of portion of electromagnetic spectrum (from TV channels) to enhance law enforcement and public safety telecommunications.

**S 376** To affirm right to use and sell encryption products and to establish privacy standards for voluntary key recovery encryption systems.

**S 377** To promote electronic commerce by facilitating the use of strong encryption.

**S 407** To clarify authority of FCC to authorize foreign investment in US broadcast and common carrier licenses.

**S 608** To authorize enforcement by state and local governments of FCC regulations of illegal citizen band radio equipment.

**S 641** To require FCC to eliminate regulations restriction cross ownership of broadcasting facilities.

**S 663** To enhance taxpayer value in auctions conducted by the FCC.

**S 665** To monitor the progress of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

**S 741** To enable FCC to enhance spectrum management capabilities through lease fees and to enhance public safety radio.

**S 1173** Companion bill to **HR 2400**, this "Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act," or ISTEA, contains provisions for radio links for "intelligent highway" system.

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At the AARC Christmas Party, the P.A.R.K.A. committee submitted nominees the following categories: Novice/Young Ham, Public Service & Lifetime Achievement. Join us at the January meeting of the AARC for the results of the vote.

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## **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club's Christmas Party was held at The Atwood Center - Friday the 5th of December, 1997.

The feasting and socializing started about 7pm. Jolly Old Saint Nick was on hand to distribute Christmas cheer to all the little ones who attended. Included on Santa's rounds were those under twenty years of age!

Wade Hampton Miller provided the music for the evening.

Harvey Rookus, NL7DK, our news letter editor of many years, has turned the job over to Edythe Lynn, KL0EO. The AARC appreciates Harvey's efforts and tenacity! John Bierman, KL7GNP, QSL Bureau Manager since 1980, has turned the Bureau over to Roger Hansen, KL7HFQ. Thank you for many excellent years of service to the Hams of Alaska.

Grand Prize an ICOM 2000H mtr. 50 watt mobile went to none other than Miss Lilly, NL7DL, (she must be living right - secretary's note.)

The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club held its December 10th board meeting in room 150 at Grant Hall, on the APU Campus. The meeting came to order at 7:08pm. Those members present were the following: Rob Wilson, AL7KK, outgoing president; Susan Woods, NL7NN, Secretary; John Wolfe, AA0NN, Trustee; Three Year Board Members: Mel Saunders, AL7PB, Bruce McCormick, WL7YR; One Year Board Members: Fred Erickson, KL7VC, Dianne Hammer, NL7KN, Jack Crowell, W6BUS, Dave Filley, WL7CDJ, and John Orella, KL7LL.

The Draft of the Agreement between APU and The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club, concerning yearly scholarship amounts, was signed by a representative of APU while still in draft form.

John Wolfe, AA0NN, club Trustee, presented the finished Jackets in two styles - a long, and a short for the Boards approval. It was approved. A KL7AA Club Jacket will be available for a flat fee of \$50.00 including names and call sign embroidered on the front left side. Any amount over \$50.00 will be paid for by the Club.

Diane Hammer, NL7KN, One Year Board Member, presented receipts for Christmas Party; Expenses in the amount of \$219.74. She was re-imburased by check - on the spot. Any extra gifts left over will be given to Clare House. (A shelter for women and children).

John Wolfe, AA0NN, Trustee, submitted out of pocket expenses for the AARC Club Jacket Project and the Wind Generator Project. He asked that re-imbursement be in the form of two Club jackets - which was approved.

Mel Saunders, AL7PB, Three Year Board Member, presented a letter from Alaska Search and Rescue Dogs. Requested was a grant of \$750.00 for the purchase of three hand-held GPS Units. After a great deal of discussion, the Board decided that the advise and council of the general membership was needed to determine the best use of our gaming proceeds.

The AARC Board will take nominations of organizations for receipt of express gaming profits. The Board requests that anyone nominating an organization be willing to stand-up and give two minute presentation on what they do, who they serve, and what the money would be used for. These presentations would be made to the General Membership at the January meeting. In February the organizations that were nominated will be ranked-so that the AARC will know how to disburse the funds, when the time

comes. The motion was made by Bruce McCormick, WL7YR, and seconded by Fred Erickson, KL7VC. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote. Also included in the motion was the suggestion that this issue receive special attention in the January Newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01pm. Respectfully submitted by Susan J. Woods, NL7NN, Secretary, AARC.

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#### **ATTENTION MEMBERS**

The Board of Directors for the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club requests your assistance in nominating worthy Alaskan Non-Profit Organizations to receive a percentage of our gaming proceeds. We ask that anyone wishing to nominate an organization be willing to make a two minute presentation about that particular organization, to the General Membership at the January Meeting. Nominations will be ranked in February, by the general membership to determine how the gaming proceeds should be divided. The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club's Board of Directors would greatly appreciate your help in this matter.

Sincerely, Susan J. Wood, NL7NN

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**NON-MEMBERS WELCOME:** You don't need to a member of the club to attend the meetings or any other AARC events, although we do encourage any non-member to join our group. See the front cover of this newsletter for the details of meetings.

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES;** All articles from members and interested persons are very welcomed. If you wish to submit any articles, jokes, cartoons please have it typed or neatly handwritten, it can be submitted on computer disk, faxed, or via Email.

**CLUB DUES:** It's that time of year again. Dues are \$20.00 Regular member - \$25.00 Family - \$10.00 Student and \$250.00 Life member (may be paid in installments)

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#### **Regular HAM Gatherings:**

\*       **Tuesdays, 11:30am to 1:00pm:** Join the gang for lunch and an eyeball QSO at the Royal Fork, Old Seward Hwy. (South of Dimond Center)

\*       **Saturdays, 7:30am:** Here is a great way to get started on the week-end come and meet with some of the locals and have a great breakfast at Phillips Restaurant, at the corner of Arctic and International. Great Fun.

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#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Jan 2:** AARC general meeting at 7pm Carr-Gottstein Building APU Campus.

**Jan. 7: License Exams.** 6:30pm Carr-Gottstein Building, APU Campus. Bring photo ID, copy of license (if any) and any certificates of completion.

**Jan 9:** SCRC general meeting at 7pm RM 220, Business Ed. Bldg., UAA campus.

**Jan 10: License Exams,** Hope Cottage Offices, 540 W. International in the Board Room. At 2pm. Be sure to bring photocopy of your license, photo ID, and any certificates of completed elements.

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## **Are you prepared to get lost or stranded?**

By Bruce W McCormick WL7YR

Most people will not admit they are not prepared to get lost. But that's what happens: You go for a short hike (2 1/2 miles) up the trail you have hiked many times. But this time something happens. You stumble and fall, **THERE IS A LOUD SNAPPING SOUND.** Now your leg is hurting. The pain and throbbing make walking impossible. Its getting dark, and you are all alone.

Should you try to make it back to your car? Try crawling down the hill the shortest way to your car? Or stay put and wait for rescuers? Or someone will come along soon. Are you mentally prepared and capable of spending the night

About this time you remember that you did not tell anyone where you were going or when you would return.

### **NOW WHAT DO YOU DO ????**

First take stock of your situation. Do you have the 12 essentials you should carry with you in Alaska.

1. Knife
  2. Waterproof Matches
  3. Space blanket or large garbage bags
  4. Candle/fire starter
  5. Compass & Map
  6. Whistle
  7. Candy or high energy bars
  8. Flashlight
  9. Cup or pot to melt snow/heat water
  10. 50 ft. cord / fish line
  11. Tea & bouillon cubes
  12. Warm hat & gloves
- (to be continued next issue.)

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### **AARC Club Jackets**

from John Wolfe AA0NN

Seasons Greetings, KL7AA Club Members! The board approved the two styles of club jackets presented at the Holiday potluck for sale at a price of \$50.00 each. For those of you who may not have been present, one style is similar to the one worn currently, long, covering the hips, but with a

fleece lining and zippered inside pocket for keeping the HT battery warm on those cold days. The second style is shorter, similar to a baseball jacket since it has a waistband, but thicker. It too has the anti-pilling fleece lining and the inside zippered pocket. The design is a full back embroidered club logo which everyone seeing it approved of, and two lines of text on the front left hand side (the members name and callsign) in Red brushed script letters. It looks great against the royal blue jacket. So, I'm open for orders. Sizes are S-XXL, with the long style jacket running a bit large in their sizing. I'll take orders for this round until Monday, then I'll place the order. I have six orders so far and I want at least a dozen before I place the order. AARC will foot the bill and you'll pay the money to the AARC at the next club meeting, upon receipt. Christmas got ya tapped out, or didn't get to see the jackets/sizes? No problem! I'll bring the samples to the next club meeting and take orders during the next three meetings, so no need to worry about missing out. One last thing. If you see someone missing from the mailing list, please get the word out to them, and let me know so I can update my list. 73 de AA0NN

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### **EARS offers Radio Classes**

By Dan Spears, NL7UW

After an in-depth train the trainer session, ala Mr. (KL7YF) and Mrs. (NL7DL) Marvin, I'm offering a Novice-Technician (with a bit of General Theory, just for spice) Radio Class. The class is an eight week course scheduled to start 12 January 98 promptly at 1830 hours.... (Oooops that's my other life,) 6:30PM. The classes will be held every Monday and Wednesday. We will be meeting at the Elmendorf ARS Facility, 31-270 Acacida Dr. There is no fee for the class other than the cost of the book.

We will be using various techniques to reinforce the material presented in, Now You're Talking! - All You Need To Get Your Ham Radio Technician License; 3rd Edition, ARRL, 1997; and a 30 to 45 minute code session. The course will follow a regimen of discussion over the reading assignments, followed by video presentation of the material and finally hands on, practical demonstrations.

A new comer to the Anchorage Ham Community, Lee Johnston, N5JUM, has volunteered to co-teach. Lee has spent the last 8 years teaching electronics professionally for the Air Force, so the course should be very dynamic. We have canvassed equipment manufacturers for operating aids or various promotional freebies, and so far have received at least a ton of stuff to be given to the students. Do you remember how you craved for info regarding ham gear? Did you drool over advertisements in a ham magazine? These items are intended to wet that appetite.

If you know of a new ham candidate, looking for a class send them our way! We would be happy to have them join in. For more information please contact me at: 337-0079 between 5PM and 8PM, or at [dspears@customcpu.com](mailto:dspears@customcpu.com).

73 and 58 de NL7UW Dan Spears

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## Little old-fashioned Lady

Gary, AB7MX

There was a nice little old lady who was a little old fashioned. She was planning to take a week's vacationing Florida at a particular camp ground, but she wanted to make sure of the accommodations first. The uppermost on her mind was "toilet facilities," but she just couldn't bring herself to write "toilet" in the letter. After considerable deliberation, she settled on using "bathroom commode," but when she wrote it down it still sounded too forward, she rewrote the letter to the campground and referred to the bathroom commode as the B.C.

On receipt of the letter the campground owner was baffled by the euphemism so he showed the letter around to several campers and workers. None of them couldn't understand it either. Finally, the campground owner figured she must be referring to the location of a Baptist Church so he sat down and wrote:

Dear Madam:

I regret very much the delay in answering your letter, but I now take pleasure of informing you that a B.C. is located nine miles north of the campground and is capable of seating 250 people at one time.

I admit it is quite a distance away if you are in the habit of going regularly but no doubt you will be pleased to know that a great number of people take their lunches and make a day of it. They usually arrive early and stay late.

The last time my wife and I went was six years ago and it was so crowded we had to stand up the whole time we were there. It may interest you to know that there is a supper planned to raise money to buy more seats. They are going to hold it in the basement of the B.C.

I would like to say it pains me very much to not be able to go more regularly, but it is surely no lack of desire on my part. As we grow older it seems to be more of an effort, particularly in cold weather.

If you desire to come to our campground, perhaps I could go with you the first time, set with you and introduce you to all the other folks.

Remember, this a friendly community.

Very truly yours;

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## **ABACUS RADIO REPAIR**

Factory authorized service for: Kenwood, ICOM, Yaesu, Alinco, Amateur radio equipment.

Special "get acquainted offer" until Dec 31, 1997. Reduced rates for any repair job in the door before cutoff date, regardless of when completed.

Call Jim Wiley, KL7CC (907) 338-0662

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## **COMMENTS DUE ON FCC PETITION**

Comments are due December 29 on the ARRL's petition to change the way Morse code exam exemptions for severely handicapped applicants are handled. The League wants to change the procedural requirements in Part 97 that must be met, prior to granting examination credit. The FCC has designated the petition as RM-9196. The League has proposed that a candidate at least would have to attempt the CW test, with any and all necessary accommodations, before being granted an exam waiver based on a physician's certification. Also, Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) would be entitled to request medical information pertinent to an applicant's handicap from the certifying physician. VECs also would be required to have this information on file before the application is forwarded to the FCC for processing. In its petition filed September 23, the League said the two "rather minor changes" would stem abuses of the waiver system and limit its use only to severely handicapped individuals without putting an unreasonable burden on examinees.

Comments to the FCC should reference RM 9196. Address them to Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St NW, Washington DC 20554.

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## A 70-Foot SKYHOOK

By L.J. Jensen, W9MIQ  
from RADIO copyright 1937

After thirty years of being a sucker for every new stunt in sky-hooks, satisfaction has been attained!!

From iron pipes heaved on ridge poles of Sunday living places to flag poles, gibbets for vertical radiators, lattice towers and wiggling bamboo fishing rods; to steel towers and telephone poles with trucks, man power, and heavy outlays of cash, I swung back to a variation of the old faithful two by two's of yellow pine. It's cheap, a seventy-foot mast costing less than seven dollars; it's strong, a medium weighter can climb half-way up with safety; prairie winds find no resistance; and it's light. None of that "ten expert pole raisers promised and no one around" when the work begins. Two lightweights, a jig pole or hand tree, a stout rope and one pulley, and thing is up...in about an hour.

Five yellow pine 2" by 2", 26 feet long, standard from a local yard, and about a dozen odd lengths of the same ranging from three to five feet, were selected for lack of knots. One 2" by 4" eight feet long was chosen for a cross arm, and four pieces of 1" by 2" strips seven feet long. At the "five and dime", lag bolts 3-1/2" by 3/8" and 5" by 3/8", two quarts of cheap outside white paint and a ten-cent brush completed the actual investment. The whole outlay for accessories was slightly under four dollars.

The long lengths of 2" by 2" were laid out, two for the lower section, two for the middle and one for the top; and each section lapped about four feet. Each joint had three lag bolts. Then the cross pieces were fastened—the bottom one was bolted but the others were inset. The joints were

reinforced with flat pieces of binding steel. Finally, the light, diagonally-placed braces were bolted cross-wise at the base and at the first joint of the second section.

The business then lies like a piece of jelly...one heave and it bends like a piece of rope. And that is where the 2" by 4" comes in. This was bolted securely, which means to cross-arms and to the uprights. Small holes were drilled near both ends of the 2" by 4" to take the anticipated cross strut guy wires.

Before any attempt at trussing was made, the whole business was given two coats of paint; this not only improves the appearance but prevents decay of materials after a few months of heat, wet or cold.

A thousand-foot roll of no. 12 galvanized iron wire and basket full of the brown porcelain strain insulators were purchased for less than \$2.00. Then the wire trusses, broken by insulators an average of every six feet, were fastened. Turnbuckles were employed, but they are to be used with caution as they are a hazard in the raising spree; they always pull out or unravel at the wrong moment.

The trusses were run from the bottom to the outer limits of the 2" by 4" cross arm: from half way up the bottom section to the cross arm, from the top and center of the second section to the cross arm, and from each side of the center of the top section. Each truss wire was bound tightly around the joint it occupied, but the tying around the joint it occupied but the tying loops were left with merely one or two turns. Then, when all trusses were in place, each binding point was drawn up tight.

Two pulleys and two ropes were fastened at the top, and then the mast was swung, single-handed, on the cross arm to the point selected for the base. For a base, two building foundation stones, about a foot in diameter and three or four inches thick, were sunk in the turf. Two pieces of old water pipe were driven in the ground beside the stones and the base of the mast tied with rope to the pipes.

The guy wires were attached next; three from the top, one running to the front and two to the back; another three at the top of the second section; and two from each side of the cross arm at the top of the first section. After the mast was up, another guy wire was added to the center of the lower section to overcome a slight swift in the base.

Everything is set to go now. Two middle-weights can raise the job with a little effort; three would make it easier perhaps, but four or five are just a nuisance.

Set a jig pole, with a pulley at the top, twenty to forty feet behind the base of the mast-the distance depends on how much rope you have. The simple thing is to line up a handy tree. Tie the rope around the mast at the cross arm. Middle-weight number one handles this position. The other hefty operates at the upper end of the mast aided by a rake and then a twenty foot length of ladder, to raise the tip as the rope man heaves.

Everything will be smooth sailing until the upper joint of the second section gets about thirty feet off the ground and the top begins to dangle in the breath-taking manner. Then the hefty on the top end must scurry around and

temporarily tie down the front guy wires... all of them, at the points he guesses will be about the right lengths when the mast is vertical (this can be figured out beforehand by the use of a little trigonometry). When that is completed, he takes hold of the rope fastened to the top of the mast and travels backward to straighten the upper section.

This is the critical moment, but if both heavers will move quickly and together, the mast literally can be jerked up to a vertical position. You cannot delay-pull together; and it stands!!! After that, it is the dreary task of sorting out the remaining guys, aligning the mast from all sides, and straightening out the pulley ropes for the aerials.

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### **WRC-97**

The conference ended today. We have received a brief report on some of the key matters of interest to amateur radio. A summary follows:

1. Earth Exploration Satellites: A proposal we did not know about ahead of time came from the Netherlands and proposed to allocate 432-438 MHz for the synthetic aperture radar used by the system. These operate from an altitude of 750 km and use 400 W of power. The antenna which has a circular diameter of 7 meters with a gain of 27.9 dBw. Therefore, these would have strong signals at the earth's surface. The satellites are used to map the earth's surface and for monitoring the conditions in rain forests. At this WRC no allocation was made. However, the matter has been placed on the agenda for WRC-99, when an allocation of 6 MHz in the 420-470 MHz band will be considered. In the meantime studies are to be conducted to determine sharing possibilities.

#### **2. Little LEO's**

There is NO immediate threat to current amateur frequencies. These satellites did receive a small allocation at 400 MHz, 150 MHz, and 454 MHz. The latter is primarily only in North America. The matter will be taken up again at WRC-99 after new sharing studies have been completed to determine which services they could share with for 7-10 MHz more of additional spectrum. Hence, 2 meters and 70 cm bands could again be placed in jeopardy.

#### **3. Wind profiler radar.**

Going into the conference there was some concern regarding the effect of requests for wind profiler radar on the amateur bands. The outcome was no change in the situation for U.S. amateurs. We had agreed in advance for coordination around 449 MHz to avoid interference to repeater operations.

#### **4. Adaptive MF/HF.**

These are systems used by the U.S. government agencies for automatic link establishment. A Resolution was adopted that provides they will not be assigned to bands where the amateur service is primary or co-primary. This is a situation that may bear watching in the future.

## 5. Future WRC's

There is some concern that meeting every two years is too frequent as more time is needed for adequate preparation. Hence WRC-99 may be moved up to the year 2000 and WRC-2001 could be moved to the year 2003. Because of the crowded agenda the amateur regulations may not be taken up until 2001 (2003 if the schedule is changed).

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### Ham radio could be last link in case of disaster

**By Bobby Command, West Hawaii Today (newspaper)**  
*editor's note: this article provided by Ted Leaf, W6HI  
of HWARS, Hawaii West Amateur Radio Society*

A Category 5 hurricane strikes Honolulu and inflicts widespread damage to the capital city and the rest of the state.

Devastating winds wipe out communications, including those at Oahu Civil Defense and Hawaii State Civil Defense.

But despite the destruction, amateur radio (ham) operators dig out of their homes, head toward designated sites, assemble their portable radio sets, unreel wire antennas and establish a temporary statewide communications system within hours of the disaster.

The simulated emergency was the scenario for a drill conducted Sunday by Hawaii members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).

The exercise demonstrated the ability of amateur radio operators to provide wireless links to the outside world when a disaster has decimate all other means of communications.

"Government agencies wrote off ham operators because they thought they had complete coverage, but they found that during a big emergency those things disappear for several days," said John Buck, a ham enthusiast who manned the emergency station at North Hawaii Community Hospital.

"The ham guys get their stuff out of the closet, put up antennas and become the critical communications links during the first few days of the disaster."

Buck said the annual test allows operators of the ARES system to see how quickly they can set up and begin operations.

The stations are independent of any other support and can use power from a car battery if the hospital's emergency power has been knocked out.

"We have stations stored at the hospitals and we get them out of the closet, hang up 30- to 60-foot antennas and try to get them going in less than an hour," Buck said.

Assisting with communications during times of emergencies is an important part of amateur radio, but it's not the only reason people get started in ham operations. Some are attracted by the ability to communicate all over the globe, while others enjoy experimenting with electronics.

Dr. Ted Leaf, a retired dentist who lives in Kona, said he always had an interest in electrical equipment and even wanted to become an amateur radio operator when he was a child.

"Ham radio is a lot of fun," said Leaf. "Just tonight I QSO'd --means talked with-- a ham in Antarctica. I will send him a QSL card, which is a specially designed postcard to confirm our contact."

However, it was a disaster which actually triggered his entry into the hobby.

Leaf said his inability to contact his children after the 1993 Northridge, Calif., earthquake inspired him to purchase his ham equipment.

"For three or four days we could not contact our kids there," said Leaf. "Pacific Tel blocked all incoming and outgoing calls. Fortunately, they were all fine."

Leaf said Hawaii is extremely isolated, especially the neighbor islands, and ham radio operators will be the link with each other and the rest of the world when a disaster strikes.

"Some people think cellular will work, but experiences in other places prove different," he said. "It becomes overloaded, antennas are gone and batteries go out."

Leaf said an example of the value of ham radio was displayed in September 1992 during the aftermath of Hurricane Iniki when the only means of communication between Kauai and Oahu immediately after the storm was a single ham operator.

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### SPECIAL NOTICE:

The American Red Cross has a new address 235 E. 8th Ave., PO Box 10-1139, Anchorage, AK 99510-1139

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### Amateur Licensing, a history

Geri Sweeney, N4GHI  
*from January 1998 Worldradio*

Just how did it all get started? Some thoughts from NY2V. Fred was first licensed at the age of 14, in 1948, and says the following is to his best recollection and subject to comment and correction:

\*\*\*

Chaos reigned on the radio waves until at least 1912. In that year, the feds began issuing licenses for all radio services. Ham licenses all had identical privileges - 5 wpm code and written theory exam.

Virtually all ham operation was done at "200 meters and down," all of the spectrum having wavelengths shorter than 200 being seen as worthless.

### **1923**

Amateur Extra First Grade license introduced. Required 2 years at lower grade, theory exam, 20 wpm code test (20 wpm was the licensing standard for the commercial applicants). Distinctive call sign given. Additional HF frequencies given.

### **1927**

Amateur Second Grade license made 1-year non-renewable.

## 5. Future WRC's

There is some concern that meeting every two years is too frequent as more time is needed for adequate preparation. Hence WRC-99 may be moved up to the year 2000 and WRC-2001 could be moved to the year 2003. Because of the crowded agenda the amateur regulations may not be taken up until 2001 (2003 if the schedule is changed).

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### Ham radio could be last link in case of disaster

**By Bobby Command, West Hawaii Today (newspaper)**  
*editor's note: this article provided by Ted Leaf, W6HI  
of HWARS, Hawaii West Amateur Radio Society*

A Category 5 hurricane strikes Honolulu and inflicts widespread damage to the capital city and the rest of the state.

Devastating winds wipe out communications, including those at Oahu Civil Defense and Hawaii State Civil Defense.

But despite the destruction, amateur radio (ham) operators dig out of their homes, head toward designated sites, assemble their portable radio sets, unreel wire antennas and establish a temporary statewide communications system within hours of the disaster.

The simulated emergency was the scenario for a drill conducted Sunday by Hawaii members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).

The exercise demonstrated the ability of amateur radio operators to provide wireless links to the outside world when a disaster has decimate all other means of communications.

"Government agencies wrote off ham operators because they thought they had complete coverage, but they found that during a big emergency those things disappear for several days," said John Buck, a ham enthusiast who manned the emergency station at North Hawaii Community Hospital.

"The ham guys get their stuff out of the closet, put up antennas and become the critical communications links during the first few days of the disaster."

Buck said the annual test allows operators of the ARES system to see how quickly they can set up and begin operations.

The stations are independent of any other support and can use power from a car battery if the hospital's emergency power has been knocked out.

"We have stations stored at the hospitals and we get them out of the closet, hang up 30- to 60-foot antennas and try to get them going in less than an hour," Buck said.

Assisting with communications during times of emergencies is an important part of amateur radio, but it's not the only reason people get started in ham operations. Some are attracted by the ability to communicate all over the globe, while others enjoy experimenting with electronics.

Dr. Ted Leaf, a retired dentist who lives in Kona, said he always had an interest in electrical equipment and even wanted to become an amateur radio operator when he was a child.

"Ham radio is a lot of fun," said Leaf. "Just tonight I QSO'd --means talked with-- a ham in Antarctica. I will send him a QSL card, which is a specially designed postcard to confirm our contact."

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## 1991

No-code Technician license introduced. This entry class does not have the CW privileges enjoyed by Technician and Novice Class licensees.

## 1991-Present Day

More and more new licensees are No-code Technician (renamed Technician, and former Technicians renamed Technician Plus licensees). Only a limited number of both classes of Technician license see reason to upgrade, being satisfied to mainly communicate on VHF and up. Average age of hams drops by about 8 years.

## 1996

A survey taken by ARRL. Respondents favoring retention of Morse familiarity rule by a vote of roughly 60% in favor, although the number of hams regularly using Morse code is reported as small, relative to SSB in particular. Internet use continues to gain ground at record pace. An even more massive rift develops between those favoring code testing and those not favoring it.

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## Grid Square Hunting

By Ace Jansen, N3AHA  
from Worldradio January 1998

What's a grid square, why would I hunt one? First, a history and geography lesson! Grid squares were developed by an inter-national group at a conference (I don't know when, so let's just say a long time ago...history lesson over) in Maidenhead, England. For that reason, you may hear them called Maidenhead grid squares. The world was first divided into 324 large areas called fields and then further divided into grid squares. There are 100 grid squares per field, so the earth is divided into 32,400 grid squares (and you thought 3,076 counties was a lot!). A grid square is a 2 deg (in longitude) by 1 deg (in latitude) region and is referenced by four characters (two letters followed by two numbers).

What more detail? A grid sub-square is a finer way to distinguish locations. These are the first 4 characters of the grid square followed by two additional letters, usually given in lower case, that specify a latitude/longitude cell within the grid square. Subsquares are the size of 2.5 minutes of arc in latitude and 5.0 minutes of arc in longitude and are typically called 6- digit grid-squares.

Some of you may be familiar with grid squares and even the fact that VHFers, 6-meter aficionados, and Satops like to collect them. Well, now JARL offers two Worked All

Square Awards (WASA); WASA-V.U.SHF for contacts above 50mhz and the WASA-HF for contacts on HF. This is the first grid square award for HF...on and below 28 Mhz. This means you will start to see more and more amateurs asking for your grid square when your make HF contact. Also, start expecting more requests for grid squares on your QSL cards, too.

Don't know what your grid square is, now don't you? Your locations may be available as the grid subsquare levels are available precomputed in the Buckmaster web site entries: <http://www.buck.com/> They are usually accurate to within one grid sub-square in either direction. Also, if you know or can obtain your latitude/longitude to reasonable accuracy, you can get your grid square by using the converter program at: <http://www.amsat.org/cgi-bin/gridconv>.

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## N4XKG plugs Amateur Radio on Today Show

Persistence paid off for Jackie Forbes N4XKG, who wanted to top off her visit to New York City, by getting a chance to plug ham radio, the ARRL, and her 70th birthday on NBC Television's "The Today Show," and according to Larry Brown, KD4KVE, she succeeded. Brown says Forbes wrote to the show's director and even pulled a trump card, sending along a photo of herself and Bill Miller, who worked on "Today" in the early days when Dave Garroway was the host. Still not knowing if she'd be granted a few fleeting seconds of fame on national TV, Forbes arrived outside NBC on the morning of her birthday, 04 August. Only then did she learn that "Today" personality Al Roker would give her a live shot at 7:35am. During the interview Forbes greeted Amateur Radio operators. She told a Punta Goda newspaper she wanted to be on "The Today Show" to draw attention to the ARRL's efforts to protect Amateur Radio frequencies from incursions by commercial interests. - via ARRL

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## Hamming at 100

A happy 100th birthday to George Wilson, W7HF, of Aberdeen, Washington. Wilson celebrated his 100th birthday on 01 November. Best of all is that Grays Harbor Amateur Radio Club member Frank Volz, KA7DNK, reports that Wilson is still active on the high frequency bands. This George Wilson - not to be confused with a former ARRL President having the same name - has been a League member since 1934. - via ARRL

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The Back Page

## Morse Code Learning Aid

Thomas Hedges, W8BKE, came up with a neat idea that was published in the February 1934 issue of QST, to help people learn Morse Code. The idea was so good that it was reprinted in the December 1997 QST and we have reproduced it here.

When starting to learn the code and working at copying perhaps 5 WPM, just place your pencil on the star at the center of the graphic on the right. When you hear a dit, move your pencil in a horizontal direction along the lines; for a dah, move it vertically. When you have traced the path of all the dits and dahs of the character, your pencil will be pointing at the letter they represent. Someone who knows about Morse code can be quickly trained to recognize the difference between a dit and a dah, and in a first session can be translating (not really copying ) at a 5 WPM rate. A few practice sessions later, he or she will be learning the individual characters because of repetition. Give it a try!

